

Corruptions and Revolution.

It is a very imperfect idea of the political philosophy of this paper which views its logic as simply leading to despair—to a wall, as it were, where there is a halt in a condition the nature of which we cannot conceive. Corruption, fraud, wrong, and oppression lead to revolution, and revolution generally brings a better condition of things. The process is terrible. The people must pass through an ordeal more or less trying. But great public evils and their authors become so conspicuous that they illuminate the course of public resentment and give a concentrated and effective force to public revenge.

That there is in this country the finest combination of Caucasian families for the production of power and endurance, we are satisfied. The ruling type of men on this continent cannot be conquered and over-run. It will survive and rise to the highest scale yet attained by man on this globe. No man, however, will undertake to deny that from causes peculiar to this country—its rapidly-made fortunes, its wonderful national growth and prosperity, its temptations and its rich leads to corruption—there has been a rapidity of growth in public dishonesty, social extravagance, corruption, and luxury, unprecedented in this world.

These things, all reflecting men know, lead to political dishonesty, and therefore political instability. Nothing endures but justice. Law and custom have been subordinated to party and personal ambition, and States and peoples have suffered from the perversion of the power of the Government to the purposes of the vindictiveness and resentments of party and for the aggrandizement of individuals. All this we see, and we know that when these things become unendurable, in the providential laws there are provided ways for men to relieve themselves—to throw off one or a hundred tyrants—and institute new forms and put in position new men to carry them out.

It is but just to this country to say that it has made unparalleled progress in all that is evil. It beats all nations in this respect. We have said that there may be recuperative energy in the country to enable it to stand up yet powerfully as a fair republic and institute the reforms necessary to save it from a radical change of its political system. We even hope this much; but we confess that this is hoping against the lessons of history. It is in all human probability only in the rigid and summary power of arbitrary rule that it is possible to maintain that order and personal security and right that are necessary to the peace and progress of a civilized people. Nearly all the examples yet afforded by the world are against what is triumphantly called "self-government."

Assuredly this nation is affording a multiplicity of arguments in behalf of the necessity of a different kind of political administration of public affairs. If the nation can by its own mind, independence, and honesty put itself under the control of a baneful official indifference, happy indeed will be the land. But if it does not show this power it will be proof that it does not possess it, or that its social elements are too discordant for its exercise.

We confess that we feel in our inmost heart an irrepressible longing for an government that shall be good all over—or bad all over. We need not say how infinitely we prefer the former to the latter, but indeed we would prefer even the latter to a land half-persecuted and half-favored—half the people regarded as the proper victims of punishment, and half as the legitimate recipients of favors and perquisites, with the liberty to plunder the public treasure and fatten on all the media of public expenditure and disbursement.

For a young nation we have proved unexampled aptitude for acquisition by sharpness, fraud, and unsurpassed activity. If the rapid speed we are making upon the railway of profligacy does not wind up in a grand revolutionary smash, we shall be saved by a miracle. Providence is too impartial, too vigilant, and ever-operative, to neglect this nation so far as to make it an exception to the logical consequences of its own vices. It has got to pass through an ordeal—as through fire—and we have the faith that it will be improved and yet become the most remarkable nation for its achievements and powers that has ever been known.

The National Course.

The fanciful and beastly partisan amendment ejected into the Constitution after the war of *eternis*, is bringing upon the nation curses. In the recent case decided by the Supreme Court the nation appears to be without the power of self-protection from extraordinary importations of inferior races menacing society with unconquerable evils. California endeavors to step the importation of multitudes of Chinese women for lewd purposes, and the Supreme Court decides that the measure is in conflict with the Constitution because there is no power to interdict the importation of Chinese, the Constitution prohibiting all discriminations as to race, color, &c.

The Californians must find some other mode of remedying the great evil they complain of. At present they are threatened with the worst of moral and physical evils. Leprosy may become a familiar malady in that part of the republic, and the amendment that protects the evil thus far, is, as it were, introduced by way of inoculation into the Constitution itself.

The nation has deprived itself of the power to protect itself against an injudicious importation of any of the inferior races. One of the most important of all the rights of self-protection would be to keep out of this land, now the heritage of the highest type of man, the inferior races. We heard Judge Chase say one day that he himself would be willing to incorporate into the Constitution a clause prohibiting the Chinese from the right to vote. Being asked on what ground, he replied: "Because they are pagans." Certainly in the matter of religion there was no great battle-field as between African and Chinese; but the Judge assumed a ground in conflict with the Constitution itself, which proclaims that no man shall suffer in his political rights on account of his political opinions. Moreover, Judge Chase was utterly ignoring the great principle of "manhood suffrage" which his abolition party had planted itself upon.

The truth is, Judge Chase spoke from an innate sense of aversion to the inferior races, which he knew in his great mind were unfit, altogether, for equality of association with the master race of which he was a member. The highest duty of the Caucasian is to maintain that superiority which God bestowed him with. In no sense should he allow that risk to be corrupted to bleed or authority where it is possible to prevent it.

The supremacy was awarded him in the Divine dispensation, and we cannot imagine that so great a gift had not its purpose. Nor can we for a moment suppose that its improper use or abuse—the parting with it for its corrupt purpose—the gratification of a sordid and still worse, a malicious purpose—can fail to be followed by a retribution commensurate with the treachery to the Divine will.

Public and Private Interests.

There is a form of conflict of public with private and corporate interests that is doing a great deal to injure the public interests and also to impair the sense of public duty amongst the representatives selected by the people to take care of their interests. It has grown to be a great evil because gentlemen have begun to regard it as conventional and proper for them to stand up in the public councils as representatives of the people while they sustain relations to corporations incompatible with the faithful performance of their public duties—rendering it impossible for them to give a fair, candid, and impartial opinion upon many questions which they are called upon to consider.

We but speak the truth. The mere statement here made would cause a blush to flush not a few cheeks. And we are glad to think so; for, thank God, the men of Virginia are not so deeply steeped in indifference to honor as not to feel the slightest departure from it, or even the suspicion of departure from it, marring their cheeks with the tinge of regret or indignation.

We have long thought that the law should have an eye to this source of faithlessness, and we think every community in choosing their representatives ought to think often before trusting their interests to men who hold agencies or lucrative appointments from corporate or other sorts of power wielding a bias in the State. *Prima facie* it has come to this, that nearly all corporate authority is alien to popular rights—ever seeking favor and increased power to set at naught public opinion. The known representatives of these powers—those who have camped and messed with them, luxuriated on their luxuries, and liberally disbursed their liberality—stand in the people's councils, and side with the powers that are against them.

In this way we know that the welfare and the rights of the Commonwealth have since the war been basely betrayed. We tell the people that they cannot be too cautious against this prolific source of public injury and public corruption.

Fish-Culture.

The report of the New Jersey fish commissioners is one of the most triumphant evidences of the beneficial results of the cultivation of the fish and the protection of them from the destructive means for their capture that have heretofore so diminished the stocks of the rivers as almost to entirely depopulate many of them. The rivers of New Jersey are, most of them, short and inconsiderable. She is bounded by the Delaware on the west it is true; but that is not peculiarly hers. The States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania are operating in replenishing the stocks of fish in that river. But the rivers of New Jersey are so replenished that crowds of sportsmen in the open season are fishing in their great enjoyment. Even railroads are beginning to count the passenger-money from fishermen as an important new source of revenue. The salmon, the trout, the chub, and other fish are being bred in great quantities at the State hatching-grounds at Troutdale.

The examples of other States ought to arouse Virginia. We trust the Legislature will find time to pass some measure to help along the cause. We see that the House of Delegates summarily dismissed the bill against "pound-net" upon the motion of General Taliaferro, who represents the mouths of great rivers, and therefore the gates through which the fish pass in their way from sea towards the inland population. We know not enough of the subject to give an opinion about it; but we well remember what *Stra* Greck, the veteran fish culturist and angler, said about them. He represented them as fish-destroyers—as cutting off the people on the upper valleys of the rivers—the fresh-water people—from supplies of fish. He is an energetic, "cussing" man, and he is "blessed" pound-net.

But it is too late to talk about the subject. Let us hope the Legislature will pass the bill originating in the Senate, and help along the cause, which is one of the most popular ever set on foot.

Repealing the Resumption Act.

The vote on Mr. Atkins's bill to repeal the resumption act, was yes 109, nays 108—not two thirds; so it failed.

Messrs. Cabell, Douglas, Gales, Harris, Henton, Terry, Tucker, and Walker, voted aye. Mr. Stowell voted no.

Well done for Virginia. Our representatives all voted aye. Stowell is not a Virginian.

General Assembly of Virginia.

Tuesday, March 21, 1876. SENATE.

Lieutenant-Governor Thomas in the chair. No prayer.

There being nothing on the calendar, no committee reports, no bills to be introduced, and only fourteen senators present at 10 o'clock, Mr. Greenup moved that the chair be vacated until 11.

At the suggestion of Mr. Greenup, however, the motion was withdrawn.

THE TAX-BILL.

At 10:15 the Senate, a quorum being present, proceeded to the consideration of the tax bill, which was read by sections. Mr. Clark moved to amend the 23d section, in the seventh line, in relation to the tax on merchants, by adding: "Provided that persons dealing in grain, flour, or unmanufactured tobacco shall only be required to pay a tax upon the capital employed in such trade or business." The amendment was agreed to by the following vote:

Ayes—Messrs. Clark, Cochran, Critcher, Daniel, Dawson, Elliott, Flannery, Greener, Hainton, Johnson, Penn, Powell, Stump, Spiller, Ward, and Wood—14.

Nays—Messrs. Barclay, Claiborne, Clifton, DuBois, Henton, Newberry, Quaker, Sweeney, Tucker, and Wortham—12.

The sections in relation to tax on liquor-dealers, &c., was postponed until to-morrow.

The Senate had reached the fifty-eight section, when Mr. Evans moved to lay the tax bill on the table in order to take up the "Citizen's Bill," communicated to the Senate by Mr. Dooley with non-concurrence of House in Senate substitute. Agreed to.

Mr. Harrison moved to adjourn. Lost—ayes 13, nays 14.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House met at 10 o'clock A. M. PUT ON THE CALENDAR.

The following Senate bills were placed on the calendar: On motion of Mr. May, to incorporate the Town of Lovettsville, Loudoun county, on motion of Mr. Johnston, to build a bridge across Jones's creek, leading from Smithfield to Smith's Neck, on motion of Mr. Gordon, to establish a separate election precinct in Northern Neck county, on motion of Mr. Masser, to incorporate the Virginia Baptist Historical Society, and to amend Code, &c., as to condemnation of lands for roads.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE.

Senate bill to amend the Code in relation to the manner of making James river and the James river and Kanawha river in State contracts. The present call says there shall be two delegates from each magisterial district in the counties, and one delegate from each voting precinct in the cities. Under this arrangement Norfolk county, having six magisterial districts, will send twelve delegates, while Portsmouth, the only larger city, will send only four. Norfolk will be entitled to eight for the reason that the whites and blacks in each ward vote in separate boxes, which may be construed as separate voting precincts. But the system is radically defective with regard to the city of Norfolk. The present call says there shall be two delegates from each magisterial district in the counties, and one delegate from each voting precinct in the cities. 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